Knowing Where To Look: A Catalog of Debris Disks and Candidates

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The structures of debris disks are invaluable repositories of information on the planetary systems embedded therein. By exploring the disk structures, the planetary masses and orbits, as well as the distribution of minor bodies can be understood. The keys to revealing this information are 1) high contrast images; 2) accurate spectral energy distributions; and 3) detailed models. Although these requirements are at the edge of current possibilities, the coming years will see qualitative changes in these areas. The Spitzer Space Telescope will for the first time obtain mid- and far-infrared measurements sensitive to minute infrared excesses. In tandem with this progress, significant effort is being made to extend our knowledge of the dynamics of our Solar System to extrasolar systems. As part of our effort aiming to obtain high-contrast optical and infrared images of debris disks, we are compiling a catalog of the most promising debris disks and disk candidates. In this poster we describe the selection criteria, summarize other similar catalogs, and present a sample from our compilation.